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*Venezuelans have voted to lift limits on terms in office for elected officials, allowing President Hugo Chavez to stand for re-election. Mr Chavez has said he needs to stay in office beyond 2012 so he can secure Venezuela's socialist revolution. Will Grant reports:*

After several hours of counting, the head of the country's **electoral commission**, Tivose Lucena confirmed on national television what many **in the yes camp** had been saying throughout this campaign. They had won with a clear majority. With 95% of the votes in, 54.3% had **supported the measure** to grant Mr Chavez **the right to stand again for office** at the end of his current term.

This was the kind of strong confirmation of his socialist agenda which Mr Chavez had been seeking. The opposition had hoped **to build on its recent electoral successes**, first in a similar vote in 2007 and then in local elections. But it is the socialist revolution led by Hugo Chavez which has been given **a jolt in the arm** by this result and the president's supporters are **ecstatic**.

Mr Chavez now faces the daunting task of **grappling with** the global economic crisis in a country dependent on exports of oil. In the past he has described Venezuela's economy as **insulated from** a drop in the oil price but few economists share his optimism.

The country's inflation is the highest in Latin America and there are serious domestic problems such as violent crime which he will need **to tackle** over the next four years if he is to ensure he can repeat this result in the presidential elections of 2012.

Grant, BBC News, Caracas

## Vocabulary and definitions

<b>electoral commission</b>	group of people responsible for managing the election and voting system
<b>in the yes camp</b>	people who support the campaign
<b>supported the measure</b>	agreed with the idea
<b>the right to stand again for office</b>	to be able to put himself forward as a candidate for president another time
<b>to build on its recent electoral successes</b>	to attract more voters and support
<b>a jolt in the arm</b>	a much needed boost
<b>ecstatic</b>	extremely happy and excited
<b>grappling with</b>	dealing with a difficult situation
<b>insulated from</b>	protected from
<b>to tackle</b>	to deal with, solve

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